

VZCZCXRO8589
PP RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHNEH
DE RUEHNE #1666/01 2221118
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 101118Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7648
INFO RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1928
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 5014
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 4236
RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0869
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2322
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6246
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2767
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9645
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 4052
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6695
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8361
RHOVVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT
RHMCSUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 001666

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NP, AC, PM

STATE FOR INR/MR

STATE FOR SCA/INS, PM/CBM, PM/PRO

STATE FOR SCA/PPD, PA/RRU

STATE FOR AID/APRE-A

USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/ANESA/OSA FOR BILL MURPHY

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, U.S.-
INDIA RELATIONS, SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA, INDO-PAKISTAN
RELATIONS; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media
reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press.
The Mission reports on English-language media via email
through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

¶1. "AFTER BAITULLAH," editorial in August 8 centrist
Hindi daily, DAINIK HINDUSTAN: "Pakistan Taliban leader
Baitullah Mehsud's killing in a U.S. drone attack does
not benefit the NATO forces struggling in Afghanistan
much, but it is a big relief for Pakistan. The U.S.
strategy is to weaken the Taliban in Pakistan so that
they are unable to shelter or support Afghan Taliban.
The success of the U.S. strategy will depend a lot on
the Pakistani army's cooperation. India should be alert
because terrorists can execute acts to increase tension
between India and Pakistan."

¶2. "TALIBAN'S SUPPORT SYSTEM CRASHES... HOPEFULLY,"
editorial in August 10 centrist Marathi daily,
NAVSHAKTI: "Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud's
death is a wonderful piece of news. It represents a
decisive leap for Pakistan's war against Islamist
militancy. While the mystery revolving around Mehsud's
dead body continues, one wishes luck to the CIA and
Pakistan in such air strikes that wipe out such
dreadful terrorists."

¶3. "ILLUSIVE BAITULLAH," editorial in August 10 right-of-center Gujarati daily, GUJARAT SAMACHAR: "The hullabaloo surrounding Pakistan's claim that Baitullah Mehsud has been killed is difficult to digest. Even if it were so, it would be foolhardy to believe that Baitullah's exit would bring an end to terrorism. Pakistan is notorious for such disinformation. Nobody has seen Laden's or Baitullah's bodies! Besides, the Americans are trying to justify their support to Pakistan in the fight against terrorism by trying to mislead the world through such baseless news."

¶4. "PAKISTAN AND THE TALIBAN MOVEMENT," editorial in August 9 right-of-center Urdu daily, SIASAT: "The possible killing of Baitullah Mehsud may not mean the end of the Taliban movement. It is the need of the day for Pakistan as well as other countries to be aware of the threat of their enemies. It is worth considering how merely a few thousand Taliban gained so much power in recent years and their motives behind capturing a country. The Taliban are not getting popular among Pakistani people because of their religious narrow mindedness. In spite of this, if the movement is active, then, there are certainly some anti-Islam forces which are working behind this."

U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS

NEW DELHI 00001666 002 OF 002

¶5. "RELATIONS BASED ON COMMON INTERESTS," op-ed in August 9 right-of-center Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "The U.S. has lost its financial supremacy, but maintains its dominance in military, technical and economic fields. In these fields, India can be a vital U.S. ally because of its expertise in the English language and its strong democratic credentials. In these areas, there is also no clash of mutual interests. The time difference between U.S. and India too works very well for round the clock cooperation. In fact, there are possibilities of brighter U.S.-India bilateral cooperation."

SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

¶6. "ARIHANT'S AUSPICIOUS LAUNCH," commentary in August 8 right-of-center Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "The launch of India's first nuclear submarine Arihant is an occasion for pride, but the chest thumping is unwarranted. India's public determination to acquire such strategic capability is important. Like the May 1998 nuclear tests, India needs to adopt a firm posture for enhancing its strategic relevance -- first regionally and then globally. The Arihant launch has symbolic significance not just for the Navy, but for the entire nation."

INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

¶7. "TERRORISM IS ALIVE," editorial in August 10 independent Kolkata Bengali daily, ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA: "New Delhi's initiative to establish good neighborly relations with Islamabad is certainly important but Pakistan must be categorically told that Delhi cannot continue dialogues with Islamabad when Pakistan is being used for anti-India activities. Washington too should not expect this to happen. It is amazing that Delhi will have to repeatedly draw Washington's

attention to Pakistan's lack of goodwill while
terrorists, pampered by Pakistan, kill innocent
Indians."
ROEMER